

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the review and consideration of the present application. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the remarks contained herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art admitted by the Applicant (hereinafter PA) in view of Gopikanth (US 6,799,038). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections based on the reasons provided below.

Regarding Claim 1, PA discloses a communication method of a mobile device, which selects a RPLMN if any RPLMN has been detected regardless of the signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN, and selects from other networks (PLMN) if no RPLMN has been detected. As stated in the specification of the present invention, the defect of PA is that even though the mobile device has selected a RPLMN, disconnection still could happen as the signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN becomes weak. Moreover, if it is determined that re-selecting a base station is required, the mobile device takes some time to re-select a base station and this extra searching time would not be allowed for an emergency call. Therefore, the present invention provides a method for solving the above-mentioned problems of PA. The method of the present invention comprises a step of selecting a reliable RPLMN by determining the signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN. If the RPLMN is not reliable, i.e. the signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN is not high enough, the mobile device will skip this RPLMN and seek for other available networks.

According to Gopikanth, the mobile station initially determines if it can use its home PLMN, and if this home PLMN is available, the mobile station will attempt to contact its home PLMN. If the home PLMN is unavailable, then the mobile station will compile other available networks based on strength of the signals from these networks (see Gopikanth, column 7 lines 24-33). In other words, Gopikanth discloses a method of selecting a home PLMN if any home

PLMN has been detected regardless of the strength of the home PLMN, and selects from other networks (PLMN) if no home PLMN has been detected, which provides the same method as PA and has the same problems as PA. Accordingly, no combination of PA and Gopikanth teach or disclose “determining if the RPLMN is detected” and if it is “determining if a signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN is higher than a particular level.” Applicant, therefore, requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 2-4 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PA in view of Gopikanth and in further view of Blakeney, et al. (US 5,267,261. Applicant traverses this rejection.

No combination of PA and Gopikanth suggests each and every element of claim 1 or claim 5 from which claims 2-4 and 6-7 respectfully depend. the addition of Blakeney does not cure this deficiency. specifically, no combination of PA, Gopikanth, and Blakeney teaches or suggests “determining if the RPLMN is detected” and if it is “determining if a signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN is higher than a particular level” as set forth in claims 1 and 5.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither PA nor Gopikanth, considered alone or in combination with Blakeney, produces the effects and advantages of the present invention for both lacking the step of determining the signal strength transmitted from the RPLMN (or home PLMN) before adopting this RPLMN (or home PLMN) to communicate with.

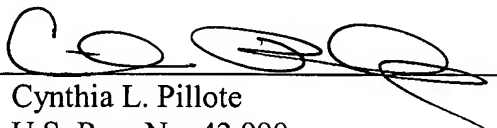
The Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 5 are thus allowable over the cited art. In addition, Claims 2-4 and 6-7, which directly or indirectly depend on patentable Claims 1 and 5 and further limit the scope, are believed also to be patentable.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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